(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) Government's policy on pornographic films;

(d) whether there is any difference of opinion in this regard between Government and the Censor Board; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and how it is proposed to be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) In the process of considering suggestions to amend the cinematograph Act, 1952, and the rules and guidelines relating to film certification, a committee formed by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) had proposed to examine a suggestion to introduce a certification category for soft pornographic films. The Government had advised CBFC that consideration of this suggestion was neither desirable nor in order, whereupon the Chairman, CBFC had resigned. Government policy on the content of films is laid down in the guidelines prescribed in terms of the Cinematograph Act, one of the objectives of which is that the medium of films should provide clean and healthy entertainment.

Prints of the Award Winning Films

2723. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the prints of the award winning films lying with Directorate of Film Festivals are in a shabby condition and not fit to be screened;

(b) whether there is any proposal to make new prints of such films to enable their participation in various festivals and retrospectives being held abroad; and

(c) the details of funds being made available for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Directorate of Film Festivals does not normally acquire prints of award winning films. Prints of films,

particularly those selected for Indian Panorama every year, are acquired for participation in various National and International Film Festivals over the years, sometimes, the quality of prints deteriorates. Their replacement is done in a phased manner from the normal provision.

Readership of Daily Newspapers

†2724. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of readership of daily newspapers has increased during past years in the country;

(b) if so, the number of readers of daily newspapers in the country during the years 1995-96 and 2000-01; and

(c) the number of such readers who live in villages?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) does not maintain data relating to readership profile of newspapers/journals. As per the records of RNI, the circulation figures for daily newspapers during the calendar years 1995, 1996 and 2000 were 35451000, 40225000 and 59129183, respectively. RNI does not maintain the circulation figures for rural and urban areas separately.

Production of Indian Films

†2725. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cultural ethos, civilization and social life in India are different than those in the developed countries like America, England etc.; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the films produced in India are against the basic instincts of culture, civilization, traditions and beliefs of India?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.